

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL**

IN RE:	:	
	:	DOCKET NO. 504
ARX WIRELESS INFRASTRUCTURE, LLC	:	
APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF	:	
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND	:	
PUBLIC NEED FOR THE	:	
CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE AND	:	
OPERATION OF A WIRELESS	:	
TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITY	:	
LOCATED AT LOT 4-N, SEQUIN DRIVE,	:	AUGUST 12, 2021
GLASTONBURY, CONNECTICUT	:	

**PRE-FILED TESTIMONY OF KEITH COPPINS**

**Q1. Mr. Coppins, please summarize your professional background in the telecommunications industry.**

A1. I am the founder and Managing Director of ARX Wireless Infrastructure LLC ("ARX"), the applicant in this proceeding. I have been part of the telecommunications industry for thirty years with a primary focus on property development, lease contract negotiations, and construction of newly-approved towers. I have successfully completed all aspects of development activities for more than 450 sites in Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New York. I personally handled or directly managed the leasing, zoning, and construction of every site. I also coordinate with wireless carriers to address their coverage needs and determine their interest in occupying each location.

In addition, I am the principal/owner of Phoenix Partnership LLC, a telecommunications site development company. I was formerly the Vice

President of Development at Optasite where I led a development team in the Northeast Region telecommunications development and site acquisition activities. I joined Optasite from Site Acquisitions, Inc. where I was Vice-President and oversaw the leasing, zoning, and construction of new tower sites. I also managed a consulting team for AT&T Wireless and T-Mobile.

Previously, I was also General Manager for American Tower Corporation and managed a consulting group for Cellular One and Southern New England Telephone. My primary responsibilities were site acquisitions, lease negotiations, and zoning of new cellular sites in the New England and New York markets.

**Q2. What is the purpose of your testimony?**

A2. My testimony provides background information relating to this Application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need ("Application") for the proposed facility ("Facility") at Lot 4 N, Sequin Drive, Glastonbury, Connecticut (the "Site").

**Q3. What was your role in this Application?**

A3. I was responsible for ARX's site search, site acquisition, coordination with the landowner, and communication with the wireless carriers for this Application.

**Q4. Please describe your site search process for the Facility.**

A4. As detailed in Exhibit F to the Application, before concluding that the Site at Lot 4 N, Sequin Drive was the best location to meet the carrier's needs, we affirmatively reached out to the owners of eleven (11) other properties in the area. In many instances, multiple letters were ignored by the property owner. In other instances, such as the locations at 311 Oakwood Drive and 17 Wickham Road, the properties were not suitable to meet AT&T's coverage needs.

**Q5. Did the Town of Glastonbury ("Town") request any changes to the proposed Facility design after the Technical Report was filed?**

A5. Yes, following ARX's submission of the Technical Report, the Town issued a Request for Proposal ("RFP") for a potential telecommunications tower on Town property at 311 Oakwood Drive. Initially, ARX applied in response to the RFP as a potential developer. However, after its response, ARX was advised by AT&T that the Town's proposed site at 311 Oakwood Drive was not acceptable from an RF standpoint. Further, Verizon notified ARX that it had no interest in locating at 311 Oakwood Drive at this time. Accordingly, because the carriers rejected the Town's proposed site at 311 Oakwood Drive, ARX withdrew its application in response to the RFP before filing this Application.

The Chair of the Town's Conservation Commission / Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency (the "IWWA") also reached out to ARX's attorneys to indicate that he believed that the Facility required approval from the IWWA. My

attorney responded to the Chair that the Connecticut Siting Council has exclusive jurisdiction to site the Facility.

In addition, to address the Town's concern about the wetland on the Site, ARX developed an alternate design that shifts the location of the Facility  $\pm 32$  feet to the east, moving the Facility further away from the wetland on the Site. A copy of the alternate plan for the Site is attached to ARX's interrogatory responses as Exhibit 9. As detailed in the Wetland Delineation Report prepared by Davison Environmental, LLC ("DE") (see Exhibit L to Application), the prime proposed tower location would have no temporary or permanent direct impacts to any wetland resource area. As with ARX's prime proposed location, based on DE's review, the alternate location on the Site would also have no temporary or permanent direct impacts to any wetland resource area.


**Q6. Does this conclude your testimony?**

A6. Yes.

I hereby affirm that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

  
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Keith Coppins

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 10 day of August, 2021.

  
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Commissioner of the Superior Court